



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

SENATOR EDWARD M. AUGUSTUS, JR.

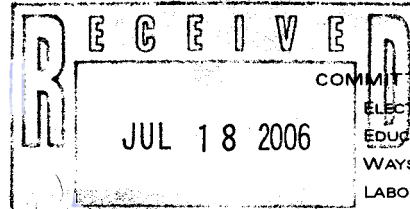
SECOND WORCESTER DISTRICT

ROOM 413B, STATE HOUSE

TEL. (617) 722-1485

FAX (617) 722-1066

E-Mail: Edward.Augustus@state.ma.us



COMMITTEES:

ELECTION LAWS (CHAIR)

EDUCATION (VICE CHAIR)

WAYS AND MEANS

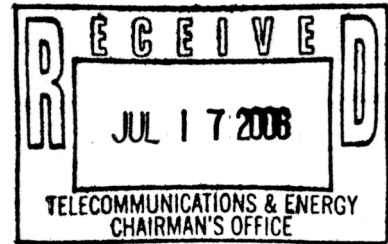
LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

VETERANS AND FEDERAL AFFAIRS

July 13, 2006

CABLE TELEVISION DIVISION

Ms. Judith Judson
Chairperson
Department of Telecommunications and Energy
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110



Dear Chairperson Judson,

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you my opposition to the pending petition submitted by Verizon that would amend the existing cable television franchising process. I believe that this petition, if adopted, would prove to be detrimental to the fair and balanced process that currently exists.

The cable television franchising process that is currently in place provides a level of critical accountability to the municipalities in which a franchise does business. In addition, under the current process a new cable franchise could apply to enter into business in a city or town. While municipalities have committed a willingness to offer and encourage more cable television competition, this petition would allow Verizon to circumvent a process that currently provides fair and balanced competition. I believe that it remains in the best interest of our citizens to provide as much competition amongst companies as possible to keep costs down and avoid monopolies. However, I simply do not believe that the petition that Verizon has filed would maintain the fair process to maintain that competition.

I strongly believe that the current cable television franchising licensing process remains in the best interest of both our municipalities and consumers. I request that you also oppose the petition submitted by Verizon, and maintain a process that has been successful for many years.

Thank you in advance for your time and attention to this important matter. If you have any questions, or if I can provide you with any more information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 617-722-1485.

Sincerely,

Edward M. Augustus, Jr.
State Senator

EMA/rk